



150 Second Street SW  
Perham, MN 56573

218.346.5500

arvig.com

March 23, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Arvig Enterprises, Inc.

Re: Forbearance Notification

WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Arvig Enterprises, Inc. (Arvig) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*<sup>1</sup> from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.

Arvig is the holding company for 14 eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that receive Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Minnesota. They are:

<u>ETC</u>	<u>SAC</u>
Callaway Telephone Company	361365
Clements Telephone Company	361372
Arrowhead Communications Corp.	361374
Eagle Valley Telephone Company	361383
East Otter Tail Telephone Company	361385
Felton Telephone Company Inc.	361391
The Home Telephone Company – MN	361408
Melrose Telephone Company	361430
Midwest Telephone Company	361431
Loretel Systems, Inc.	361443
Osakis Telephone Company	361448
The Peoples Telephone Company of Bigfork	361453
Redwood County Telephone Company	361472
Twin Valley – Ulen Telephone Company	361491

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

Arvig elects forbearance relief for the census blocks in its study areas that are not funded under A-CAM. Arvig does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Carrier Names:* Callaway Telephone Company, Clements Telephone Company, Arrowhead Communications Corp., Eagle Valley Telephone Company, East Otter Tail Telephone Company, Felton Telephone Company Inc., The Home Telephone Company – MN, Melrose Telephone Company, Midwest Telephone Company, Loretel Systems, Inc., Osakis Telephone Company, The Peoples Telephone Company of Bigfork, Redwood County Telephone Company, Twin Valley – Ulen Telephone Company

2. *ETC Designation Information*

a. *ETC Designation Order:* Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; In the Matter of the Request by Members of MIC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Temporary Suspension of Certain Toll Restriction Services; In the Matter of the Requests by Other Incumbent LECs for ETC Designation; In the Matter of the Request of Northland Telephone Company d/b/a PTI Communications; Docket Nos. P-999/M-97-1270 and P-551/M-96-135; Order Designating Petitioners as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, Allowing Additional Time to Provide Certain Services, Approving Rate Reduction for Qualified Low Income Customers, and Requiring Filings; December 23, 1997.

Note: All of Arvig's operating companies were designated as ETCs under the same Order.

b. *Designating Authority:* Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

c. *Type of Designation:* High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)

d. *Date of ETC Designation:* December 23, 1997

3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance:* The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains lists of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Arvig is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within each of Arvig's ETC-designated service areas that are not funded under A-CAM.

---

<sup>2</sup> Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

4. *Date and Reason for Change:* Arvig received its first A-CAM support payments on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Company no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service areas that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband:* Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Arvig is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Company still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 218-346-5500 or [staci.malikowski@arvig.com](mailto:staci.malikowski@arvig.com) if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Staci Malikowski  
Chief Financial Officer